

# J&K's Village Ventures

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## *She's persevering!*

**This past November I was packing up our office** and glanced out the window. There coming up the path was Christina! What was she doing coming to Nindewari two days before we were scheduled to leave the village? Crutch under her arm, she transferred her weight from one side to the other as she approached our house.

Even though born with a malformed leg, Christina was blessed with parents who loved her and the Lord. They taught her to persevere and do her best at whatever she did. After Christina completed grade 6 (the highest grade taught at the Nindewari Community School), she continued her education through correspondence courses via the College of Distance Education of Papua New Guinea (PNG).



**Christina poses with our first draft of Revelation 1:8.**

In the meantime, we were still learning the Binandere language and praying that the Lord would help us form a Bible translation team. In answer to those prayers, the Lord led Christina's uncle, Wilberforce, to be the first translator to join our team. But after working together with us for several years, Wilberforce realized that our team's progress was being hampered by lack of dependable 'back translators'. So in 2014 he recommended his niece, Christina. But, "What is a back translator?"

Before I answer that question, please allow me to explain where we are coming from. As God's children, (and especially as Bible translators) He expects us to communicate the meaning of His Word clearly and accurately. In Deuteronomy 4:2, Moses says, "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it." Also in Revelation 22:18-19, John says, "If anyone adds to

these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy; God shall take away his part from the Book of Life." (NKJV) Therefore, the Summer Institute of Linguistics (the organization with which we serve in PNG), has established certain requirements that must be fulfilled before we are allowed to publish any translated Scripture.



**Some of God's creative handiwork witnessed on our return flight to Ukurumpa. (photo by Christopher Clark)**

One of those requirements is that our work must be checked and approved by a qualified Bible translation consultant before publishing. However, the only qualified translation consultants currently available in PNG are people fluent in English, not Binandere. Therefore, in order to fulfill this requirement, we need people fluent in both Binandere and English to translate the drafts of Binandere Scripture back into English for our translation consultant.

A person who is translating the vernacular into a second language for the translation consultant is called a 'back translator'. The back translator is not permitted to refer to an English Bible while doing their work, and must not have been a translator of the vernacular which they are translating back into English. If the back translation is done correctly, it can be used by the translation consultant to determine the accuracy and clarity of the translated Scripture. The consultant can then alert the translation team to any apparent errors and unclear wording revealed by the English back translation. Once the team corrects errors and makes

necessary adjustments, the consultant may then give them permission to publish.

Back in 2014, we contacted Christina and invited her to come to Nindewari for some initial training. She caught on quickly and this year will be Christina's 10<sup>th</sup> year to serve as one of our back translators! However, when Christina showed up at our house this past November, we were a bit surprised to see her.

But as we talked together, the reason for her visit became more apparent. She had undergone a frightening experience the night before. In the middle of the night, she was awakened by someone saying to her, "Christina, your work is done. It's time for you to depart from this life. You need to prepare to die!" She then explained that she was not convinced that this unseen being knew what he was talking about. First of all, the translation of the Binandere New Testament was not yet completed. Therefore her work as a back translator was not done. Furthermore, she had every intention of supporting the translation of the Binandere New Testament until it was finished. Last of all, she was not sick or suffering from any illness, so why should she make plans to die?

After sharing this story with us, Christina asked, "Will you pray for me?" I think at that moment I felt some of the same emotions John the Baptist must have felt when Jesus asked him to baptize him! Knowing how Christina has persevered (despite being physically disabled) all her life brought tears to my eyes. Kathy and I took time right then and there to pray for Christina.

However, on this side of eternity we know that every day God expects us to pray for one another (Matthew 6:9-13; Ephesians 6:18). So please continue to pray for us. Please pray that our heavenly Father will protect our Binandere translation team spiritually, physically and in every way as we press toward completing the bulk of the Binandere New Testament by mid 2027.

Thank you for partnering with us in this way!

### Praises

1. God protected our team spiritually + physically in the village Sep 20-Nov 17.
2. (During this time Caedmon + Eutyclus were in Port Moresby receiving treatment for TB.)
3. Wilberforce (W), Roy (R) + Jonathan (J) finished translating Rom 11-16 + began Rev.
4. W, R + J helped Frederick translate 2 Cor 7-11.
5. W + R village checked 1 Cor 7-12, Rom 1-5 + Heb 13. Our back translators translated these same chapters back into English.
6. Kathy's Binandere teen girls' Bible study met 7 times + averaged 25 girls each Tues p.m.
7. Kathy's ladies' literacy class also went well. They met 4 times + averaged 13 each Fri a.m.
8. The Lord blessed us with a wonderful time in Australia Nov 27-Dec 11 celebrating our annual Christmas vacation (+ our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary).

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### Prayers

- For God's watch care over our translation team as we serve in the village, Jan 31-Mar 8.
- For W, Caedmon, R + J as they hope to finish translating Rev 1-5, + village check Rom 6-9.
- For Eutyclus, Frederick + J as they seek to translate 2 Cor 12-13, Jude + Rev 17-18, + also village check 1 Cor 13-16.
- For wisdom and creativity for Kathy as she teaches her Binandere teen girls' Tues p.m. Bible study and ladies' Fri a.m. literacy class.
- For our back translators as they back translate Rom 6-9 and 1 Cor 13-16.
- That God would be glorified as we attend the PNG Branch Conference at our Ukarumpa linguistics center, Mar 13-20.
- That our family + team would continue to keep our eyes on Jesus as we run the race He has set before us (Heb 12:1-2).

**Your partners in the Gospel,**

*Jonathan & Kathy*

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